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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 5, 2006

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### **NATION'S SECURITY, FREEDOM OF PRESS TOPICS OF UM EVENT**

#### **MISSOULA—**

Tensions between national security concerns and freedom of the press are the focus of a panel discussion that will take place Tuesday, Oct. 10, at The University of Montana.

"Terrorism and Truth: Security and News in a New Era," will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the University Center Theater. The event is free and open to the public.

Panel members are former CBS White House correspondent Robert Pierpoint; Great Falls Tribune Capitol Bureau Chief Gwen Florio, who reported from the Middle East after Sept. 11, 2001; and Mark Johnson, retired ambassador and deputy inspector general for the U.S. State Department and executive director of the World Affairs Council of Montana.

UM School of Journalism Dean Jerry Brown will serve as panel moderator.

Pierpoint's first assignment as a CBS Washington, D.C.-based correspondent was to cover the Little Rock High School integration crisis in 1957. Later that year, he was appointed the CBS White House correspondent, covering President Eisenhower. He remained in that position during the presidencies of Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter.

In 1980, Pierpoint was assigned to the State Department as the diplomatic correspondent. He retired from CBS in June 1990, after receiving two Emmys and a multitude of other awards. He now splits his residency between Valle Verde, Calif., and West

-More-



Yellowstone.

Florio came to Montana a year ago from the Rocky Mountain News in Denver, where she covered politics and regional news. She previously had worked at the Denver Post.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the Post dispatched Florio to Afghanistan, Pakistan and other areas of the Middle East, including Iraq. She first began writing stories from Montana in the mid-1990s as a Denver-based national correspondent covering the Rocky Mountain West for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Johnson founded the World Affairs Council of Montana, an organization that seeks to inform Montanans about global issues. He retired from the State Department after serving 30 years in a variety of foreign policy positions in the Middle East, Africa and Washington, D.C.

Johnson was U.S. ambassador to Senegal from 1993 to 1996. At the time of his retirement, he was deputy inspector general of the State Department. He is a fourth generation Montanan who grew up in Great Falls.

The panel discussion is part of a Missoula International School two-day series of events, "A Community of Perspective," designed to give area residents insight into the school's curriculum and educational vision.

The event is co-sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Montana,  
<http://www.montanaworldaffairs.org>, and UM's School of Journalism,  
<http://www.umt.edu/journalism>.

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